



FloorPrep

Legislative Digest

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

J.C. Watts, Jr.
Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour and
2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business
(No Votes Before 2:00 p.m.)*

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 149—Omnibus Parks Technical Corrections Act
H.R. 171—Coastal Heritage Trail Route Reauthorization Act
H.R. 193—Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Wild and Scenic River Act
H.R. 92—Designating the Hiram H. Ward Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse
H.R. 158—Designating the James F. Battin Federal Building
H.R. 233—Designating the Richard C. White Federal Building
H.R. 435—Designating the Ronald V. Dellums Federal Building



Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

Floor Situation: The House will consider the following seven bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

H.R. 149—Omnibus Parks Technical Corrections Act makes numerous technical amendments to certain statutes affecting public lands. Most of these amendments correct spelling and punctuation errors or make other non-substantive changes to the original laws. This legislation responds to a list of technical mistakes submitted to Congress by the administration. CBO estimates that enactment will have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Hansen; the Resources Committee reported the bill by voice vote.

H.R. 171—Coastal Heritage Trail Route Reauthorization Act increases the existing authorization for developing the Coastal Heritage Trail Route in New Jersey from \$1 million to \$4 million (over the next five years) and extends the Interior Secretary's authority to manage the trail through September 30, 2004. In 1988, Congress established (*P.L. 100-515*) the Coastal Heritage Trail Route.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that the federal government will spend \$3 million over the next five years to implement the measure. The bill was introduced by Mr. LoBiondo *et al.*; the Resources Committee reported the bill by voice vote.

H.R. 193—Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Wild and Scenic River Act designates 29 miles of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord (SUASCO) rivers in Massachusetts as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System. Management of the SUASCO rivers will be coordinated between the National Park Service (NPS) and the SUASCO River Stewardship Council, as outlined in a river conservation plan approved in March 1995. The bill authorizes the NPS to provide financial and other assistance to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and relevant local governments under cooperative agreements aimed at facilitating the management of the newly designated river segments. The measure authorizes up to \$100,000 each year to implement the river conservation plan, including financial and other assistance to the state and local governments.

The 29 miles of river were found suitable for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System based on their free-flowing character and the presence of five remarkable river-related resources: ecology, history, literature, recreation, and scenery. The eligible segments for designation include (1) 16.6 miles of the Sudbury River as scenic; (2) 4.4 miles of the Assabet River as recreational; and (3) eight miles of the Concord River as recreational. In 1968, Congress enacted the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (*P.L. 90-542*) to establish a system to preserve rivers with noteworthy values in their free-flowing condition. CBO estimates that enactment will have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Meehan *et al.*; the Resources Committee reported the bill by voice vote.

H.R. 92 names the federal building and U.S. courthouse at 251 N. Main Street in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, for Hiram H. Ward. Mr. Ward was a distinguished jurist, sitting on the federal bench for 22 years. He was born and raised in North Carolina and served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army Air Force. President Nixon appointed Judge Ward to the federal bench for the Middle District of North Carolina in 1972, where he served as judge and as Chief Judge until 1988, at which time he moved to senior status. Judge Ward served in that capacity for another six years on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. The bill was introduced by Mr. Coble and was reported by the Transportation Committee by voice vote on February 11, 1999.

H.R. 158 names the U.S. courthouse at 316 N. 26th Street in Billings, Montana, after James F. Battin. Mr. Battin served as both a member of Congress and a federal judge. His tenure in the House of Representatives lasted for 10 years, from the 87th through the 91st Congresses. President Nixon appointed him to the federal bench in 1969, and he served as Chief Judge from 1978 to 1990, when he moved to senior status. During his tenure on the bench, he served the District of Montana as well as districts in Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, Hawaii, and Georgia. In the House, he served on the Judiciary, the Foreign Affairs, and the Ways & Means Committees. The bill was introduced by Mr. Hill *et al.* and was reported by the Transportation Committee by voice vote.

H.R. 233 designates the federal building located at 700 East San Antonio Street in El Paso, Texas, as the “Richard C. White Federal Building.” Mr. White—a native-born Texan from El Paso—attended Texas Western College from 1940 to 1942, and graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso in 1946. In 1955, he was elected to the Texas State House of Representatives, where he served until 1958. In 1965, Mr. White was elected to his first of nine successive terms in the U.S.

House of Representatives, representing the 16th District of Texas. In 1983, Congressman White retired from Congress and returned to El Paso to resume his legal career and serve as a civic leader. The bill was introduced by Mr. Reyes and was reported by the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee by voice vote.

H.R. 396 names the federal building located at 1301 Clay Street in Oakland, California, as the “Ronald V. Dellums Federal Building.” Mr. Dellums was born in Oakland, California, on November 24, 1935. He was elected to serve in the House in 1970 after four years on the Berkeley City Council. Congressman Dellums’ first major effort after arriving in Washington was toward bringing about an end to the war in Vietnam. He was also a strong advocate for arms reduction throughout his entire career and championed issues involving civil rights, equal rights for women, human rights, and the environment. During his tenure, Congressman Dellums also held the chairmanship of the Committees on Armed Services and the District of Columbia. The bill was introduced by Mr. George Miller *et al.* and was reported by the Transportation Committee by voice vote.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #4, February 19, 1999.



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